

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An implantable electrode array for insertion through an insertion point into at least the basal region of the cochlea, the array comprising:
 - an elongate carrier having a longitudinal axis;
 - a plurality of electrodes disposed in said carrier; and
 - stabilizing collar disposed adjacent to said carrier comprising:
 - an abutment surface configured to abut a surface of the cochlea adjacent the insertion point; and
 - at least one anchor configured to substantially prevent translation along, and rotation about, the longitudinal axis of said carrier.
2. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 1, wherein said collar comprises:
 - a first collar portion having a diameter greater than that of said carrier.
3. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 1, wherein said collar comprises a distal end connected to said carrier, and wherein said abutment surface is disposed on said distal end of said collar.
4. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 3, wherein said abutment surface extends outwardly from said carrier at a substantially right angle to the longitudinal axis of said carrier.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 1, wherein said collar is formed integrally with said carrier.
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 1, wherein said anchor is disposed adjacent to said.

9. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 1, wherein said anchor comprises a mesh configured to be sutured to a recipient thereby affixing said anchor to the recipient.

10. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 9 wherein said mesh is formed integrally with said collar.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 1 further comprising:
at least one indicator disposed on said collar configured to indicate rotational orientation of the electrode array.

13. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 1 wherein the array is configured for inserting to approximately a first turn in the basal region of the cochlea.

14-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A method of inserting an implantable electrode array into at least the basilar region of the scala tympani duct of a recipient's cochlea, the electrode array comprising a collar comprising an abutting surface on the array and at least one anchor attached to the collar and the array, the method comprising the steps of:

forming an opening in the cochlea;

inserting said array into the cochlea and advancing the array therein; and

abutting said abutting surface on said collar means to the tissue surrounding said opening formed in the cochlea; and

securing the electrode array to prevent translation along, and rotation about, a longitudinal axis of the electrode array.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

fabricating a fascia washer using the recipient's tissue; and

positioning the fabricated washer over the array before said inserting into the cochlea.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the fascia washer comprises temporalis fascia tissue harvested from the recipient.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein securing the array further comprises:

the at least one anchor to the recipient adjacent the formed opening.

26-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the collar further comprises an indicator disposed therein, the method further comprising:

orienting the array during said inserting with respect to the cochlea using the indicator.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein inserting said electrode array into the cochlea further comprises:

halting said inserting when a distal end of the array is at the first basilar turn of the cochlea.

38. (Previously Presented) An implantable electrode array for insertion through an opening at an insertion point into at least the basal region of the cochlea, the array comprising:

means for abutting configured to abut the array against a surface of the cochlea adjacent the insertion point; and

means for anchoring said abutting means to the surface of cochlea adjacent the insertion point to prevent translation along, and rotation about, a longitudinal axis of the array.

39. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 38, wherein said means for anchoring the array is configured as a mesh.

40. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 38, further comprising:

means for orienting the array with respect to the cochlea.

41. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 1, wherein said abutment surface is further configured to seal the cochlea at the insertion point.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein abutting said abutting surface further comprises:

sealing the opening in the cochlea with said abutting surface.

43. (Previously Presented) The implantable electrode array of claim 38 wherein said means for abutting is further configured to seal the cochlea opening at the insertion point.